DATE: April 30, 1996

SUBJECT: Pollution Report for the Lake Underground Storage site, Removal Phase II, Painesville, Lake County, Ohio

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POLREP NO. 3 (Phase II Initial)

II. BACKGROUND

Site NO:	A506
Response Authority:	CERCLA
NPL Status:	None
Start Date:(Phase II)	April 23, 1996
Completion Date:	
Latitude:	410 43.791" N
Longitude:	810 16.764" W
CERCLA Incident Category:	Removal Funded Site

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION

A. Situation:

1. The Lake Underground Storage site consists of two separate locations approximately 2 miles apart at 675 Lakeshore Blvd. and 1504 W. Jackson St. in Painesville Twp., Lake County, Ohio. The Lakeshore Blvd. site is approximately 70 acres with four unsecured corroded aboveground storage tanks of ethyl mercaptan: a 500 gallon tank in the rafters of a truck loading facility, a 1500 gallon tank on the ground suspected to be connected to the tank in the rafters, two 500 gallon tanks in areas nearby the others. The Lakeshore area also contains an area of PCB contaminated soil from a transformer spill. The Jackson St. site is approximately 100 acres with one 500 gallon tank of ethyl mercaptan. Two full transformers are present at the Jackson St. site.
2. On November 15, 1995, Ohio EPA initiated a site investigation and characterized the content of the tanks after complaints from Painesville residents of odor from the site and a request for assistance from the local Fire Departments. A liquid stream was leaking from a valve at the top of the 1500 gallon tank, which was tightened to stop the leak. A liquid sample of the material indicated a flashpoint of 67oF and that it was ethyl mercaptan.

3. U.S. EPA conducted a site assessment at the site on November 21, 1995. Abandoned tanks and drums of ethyl mercaptan and waste oil were documented at the site. PCB transformers and associated contaminated soils were also documented at the site.
4. From November 30 through December 18, 1995, U.S. EPA conducted removal activities at the site. Approximately 2000 gallons of ethyl mercaptan waste liquid were transported to Chemical Waste Management in Sauget, IL, for incineration disposal.

B. Current Situation:

1. On April 19, 1996, U.S. EPA mobilized ERCS and responded to reports from Ohio EPA and local fire department of mercaptan odors from the site entering the adjacent neighborhood. Vandalism was documented on one of the mercaptan transfer boxes and a ruptured supply line was the source of the leak and corresponding odor. The line was removed and capped and the entire transfer box was decontaminated with hydrogen peroxide solution. Two to four ounces of ethyl mercaptan were recovered and contained from the line. All four transfer boxes on site were secured.

C. Actions Taken:

1. On April 23, 1996, a meeting was conducted between U.S. EPA, ERCS, and START to develop a decontamination work plan. The work plan involved encapsulating the loading rack area for decontamination of tanks and associated piping contaminated with mercaptan. Following the meeting, ERCS personnel visited the site for further planning and inspection of waste streams.
2. On April 25, 1996, U.S. EPA, ERCS, and START mobilized personnel and equipment to the site to initiate phase II activities. The support zone was cleared of debris and construction began on the hot zone encapsulation area measuring 80'x30'x20'. Samples of suspected PCB liquid were collected from drums and a transformer. U.S. EPA met with officials from the Painesville Township and Painesville Fire Departments and scheduled a contingency plan meeting for April 26, 1996. Site security was initiated for off work hours.
3. On April 26, 1996, support zone equipment was mobilized on site and a command post was established. Three empty ethyl mercaptan tanks were transferred to the staging/hot zone area (1 from the Jackson Street site). Hot zone enclosure construction continued. The air filtration system was constructed and a dry run was conducted to test function. An ERCS delivery order increase of $50,000 was approved.
4. On April 29, 1996, hot zone encapsulation area construction completed. 5 mercaptan tanks moved inside encapsulation area in preparation for decontamination. A crane was utilized on-site to lower one suspended tank from loading rack roof. One additional transformer identified on-site and sampled for PCB content. A total of 4 transformers identified on-site to date. Air monitoring plan initiated at hot zone and perimeter locations.

5. On April 30, 1996, flange blanks were installed to all propane lines in the propane/mercaptan manifold system. Hydrogen peroxide solution is utilized to decontaminate mercaptan tanks. Painesville Township Fire Department on-site to provide emergency back-up.

D. Next Steps

1. Complete mercaptan tank and piping decontamination by May 2, 1996.
2. Complete off-site transportation and disposal of decontaminated tanks and decon solution by May 3, 1996.
3. Stabilize PCB waste streams (transformers and soil) by May 3, 1996 in preparation for off-site disposal pending facility approval.

E. Key Issues

1. Support from local fire departments to assist in site stabilization has been effective.
2. A 12 million gallon oil/brine lagoon remains on-site. Recent heavy rain has reduced freeboard to 6 inches. OSC will discuss removal plan with Ohio EPA, ODNR Division of Oil & Gas, and U.S. Coast Guard.

V. COST INFORMATION

Estimated Costs through April 29, 1996

	BUDGETED	COST TO DATE	REMAINING
ERCS	$115,000	$ 98,767	$ 16,233
START	$ 20,000	$ 12,560	$ 7,440
EPA DIRECT	$ 6,900	$ 4,140	$ 2,760
EPA INDIRECT	$ 6,500	$ 6,119	$ 381
Total	$148,400	$121,586	$ 26,814